THE BEST INTERNATIONAL MARITIME HEALTH SCIENTIFIC ARTICLE OF THE YEAR 2018

The "IMH Scientific Article of the Year" recognizes the best and most relevant peer-reviewed, scientific work in maritime medicine and adjacent fields, published in the prior calendar year in the International Maritime Health.

Scientific Committee of five members selects the winner from nominated candidates. Nomination is free to all, including the Scientific Committee itself. The first Scientific Committee was appointed by the IMHF Management Board.

COMMITTEE

The members of the Committee for the 5 years 2018–2023:

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- Prof. Eilif Dahl — Norwegian Centre of Maritime Medicine, Haukeland, University Hospital, Bergen, Norway
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- Dr. Brice Lodde — Laboratoire d'Etudes et de Recherche en Sociologie (LABERS), Sociology, European University of Brittany, Brest, France

NOMINEES

1. Antonio Roberto Abaya, Jose Jaime Lorenzo De Rivera, Saren Roldan, Raymond Sarmiento. Does long-term length of stay on board affect the repatriation rates of seafarers? International Maritime Health 2018; 69(3): 157–162, doi: 10.56.03/IMH.2018.0025. **Two votes**
2. Christopher James Taylor. Gastroenteritis outbreaks on cruise ships: are sanitation inspection scores a true index of risk? International Maritime Health 2018; 69(4): 225–232, doi: 11.5603/IMH.2018.0037. **Two votes**
3. Stephen E. Roberts, Tim Carter. Causes and circumstances of maritime casualties and crew fatalities in British merchant shipping since 1925. International Maritime Health 2018; 69(2): 99–109, doi: 10.5603/IMH.2018.0015.

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THE WINNER

Two equivalent prizes

1. **Antonio Roberto Abaya, Jose Jaime Lorenzo De Rivera, Saren Roldan, Raymond Sarmiento. Does long-term length of stay on board affect the repatriation rates of seafarers? International Maritime Health 2018; 69(3): 157–162, doi: 10.56.03/IMH.2018.0025.**

Abstract

Background: *The length of seafarers' contract has undergone scrutiny regarding the health, welfare, and fatigue of the crew. This study investigates whether a stay of more than 200 days can increase the risk of medical repatriation among Filipino seafarers.*

Materials and methods: *We reviewed the number of medical repatriations from January 2014 to December 2016, specifically those who were repatriated after more than 200 days on board. We used WHO ICD-10 classification to categorise diseases and medical events that cause the repatriation, and classified them under "Injury" or "Illness" as defined by the Occupational Injury and Illness Classification Manual. We also separated those who worked on cargo vessels as well as those who worked on passenger ships. We requested for the total number of seafarers who worked longer than 200 days on board. After calculating a repatriation rate for this specific group of long-term workers, we then compared this with a previous study. Chi-square analysis and regression analysis were applied to analyse the data comparing the passenger versus cargo ships repatriation rates.*

Results: *There were a total of 840 cases of long-term repatriations in this study for the 3 year period. The total number of crew who had stayed for more than 200 days was 51,830. The different causes of repatriation are presented. Repatriation rates are also shown and a study of the regular stay and long term contracts are also compared.*

Conclusions: *There are various disease entities significantly higher in the long term work group. We offer some possible explanations for some of these differences in repatriation rates. This data could be useful in planning of schedules, work hours and contracts as well as the prevention of disease in seafarers.*

Key words: maritime health, medical repatriation, seafarers

2. **Christopher James Taylor. Gastroenteritis outbreaks on cruise ships: are sanitation inspection scores a true index of risk? International Maritime Health 2018; 69(4): 225–232, doi: 11.5603/IMH.2018.0037.**

Abstract

Background: *The utility of cruise ship sanitation scores as indicators of future gastroenteritis outbreak was investigated by means of a 5-year review of inspection scores and outbreaks of gastroenteritis as reported under the Vessel Sanitation Programme of the United States Public Health Centers for Disease Control.*

Materials and methods: *Between 2012 and 2017 a total of 1197 inspections were published online, with a mean score of 95.7 out of 100. During the same interval there were 50 separate outbreaks of acute gastroenteritis.*

Results: *No significant difference was found between pre-outbreak inspection scores, mean 96.4, and inspections that were not followed by an outbreak, mean 95.1 ($z = 0.81$, $p = 0.42$).*

Conclusions: *This study shows that the current format of the inspection audits carried out under the Vessel Sanitation Programme generates scores that have no prognostic value with regard to future outbreaks of gastroenteritis on board cruise ships.*

Key words: acute gastroenteritis, outbreak, Vessel Sanitation Programme, United States Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, cruise ships, norovirus

CONGRATULATIONS!

ISMH15 – HAMBURG, 12–15 JUNE 2019

SEA, PORT, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

2nd Announcement and further call for abstracts

Dear colleagues,

The upcoming **15th International Symposium on Maritime Health** (**ISMH15**) will be held at HafenCity University Hamburg, Germany, from 12 to 15 June 2019. Three months ahead of the symposium under the title *Sea, Port, Health and Environment*, the preparations are well on track.

To give you an update: we received about 110 abstracts to date which are currently evaluated. Attached you will find an overview of the programme and time schedule. Among others, plenary sessions will be held with respect to cruise medicine, travel medicine, digitalisation as well as environmental aspects of maritime health. About 20 parallel sessions and poster presentations will cover all aspects of maritime medicine and will show the latest research results in the field.

Please note: the deadline for abstract submission has been extended and we will be very happy to receive your contribution to ISMH15 until 24 March 2019! Please submit your abstract online via the conference website: http://ismh15.com/en/submitting-abstracts/. On the website you will find detailed information on abstract format and requirements. All abstracts will be evaluated by the scientific committee of ISMH15. Notification of acceptance will be sent out by end of March 2019.

In addition to the scientific programme, the ISMH15 team also arranged an attractive social program for you including a welcome reception at historic Hamburg Town Hall, a visit and dinner at Hamburg Seaman's Club as well as boat trips through the harbour and city channels and the conference dinner at a traditional rowing club.

Registration for ISMH15 is open and can be made via the conference webpage where you will also find more detailed information and news on ISMH15: http://ismh15.com/en/.

Important dates for ISMH15:

24 March 2019 — Deadline for abstract submission
31 March 2019 — Notification of abstract acceptance
15 April 2019 — Early bird registration ends
31 May 2019 — Regular registration ends
12–15 June 2019 — ISMH15 Conference

We look forward to welcoming you to Hamburg and to your contribution to ISMH15!

Volker Harth
President ISMH15